THE PRICE IS RIGHT FOR STAN

Stan Lazaridis has done it all in a glittering career — but WA's most capped Australian international was overcome by his latest honour. Football West paid tribute to the 60-times capped left flanker by naming its best player award for the Blood Donate Cup final the Stan Lazaridis Medal. "I'm very flattered — you don't expect anything like this," said the modest Lazaridis, who played for West Ham, Birmingham City, Perth Glory, West Adelaide, Floreat Athena and Kingsway Olympic in an outstanding 20-year career. "To be acknowledged like this is something special and I am honoured that Football West has done this." The first winner of the Stan Lazaridis Medal was Sorrento midfielder David Price, who excelled in the Cup final victory over Perth in late August. Price is the son of Sorrento coach Paul Price, who formerly played with Tottenham and was a Wales international. Football West have recently honoured other great WA players by naming medals after them. The Gary Marocchi Medal is for the best player in the State League Grand Final — Perth's Greg Sharland was the winner in the 2011 decider in early October — the Robbie Dunn Medal honours the best player in the Night Series, and the Alan Beale medal is for the best player in the Charity Shield. Marocchi and Dunn are two of the Hall of Fame's Legends, while Beale was inducted into the Hall of Champions in 1996. And Football West added another Hall of Famer to their Medals 'haul' when the inaugural Ron Tindall Medal was presented to the 2011 Coach of the Year. Tindall, who was inducted into the Hall of Recognition in 2002, had a sparkling playing career in England with Chelsea and was WA State Director of Coaching from 1977 to 1987. He was also the State Team coach. Ron was also Development Coach with the Department of Sport and Recreation for 12 years and was presented with the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2008 for his services to sport.

A New Role For Normo

Graham Normanton, WA's most successful State League coach, is now part of the Perth Glory backroom team. Normanton, who was inducted into the WA Hall of Fame's Hall of Recognition in 2008, is the Hyundai A -League club's new Recruitment Manager. His brief is to identify local State Premier League players who have the potential to step up and make an impact with the Glory. He resigned as coach of Perth SC in 2010 after a success-laden 11 years with the club which included five league titles and eight night series trophies. "I think we have more talent in the State Premier League than we give it credit for," said Normanton. "With additional training and improved health advice, I feel there are players who can definitely step up to play with Perth Glory." Glory chief executive Paul Kelly said the new role was crucial to the long-term viability of the club. "We need to continue developing local talent and give them the best opportunities to play at a higher level," he said.

THE HISTORY BOYS CATCH UP

Two of Australia's most notable football historians — Richard Kreider and Ted Simmons — swapped tales when they met for the first time in Perth recently. Both are poised to publish what will be invaluable volumes on the history of the game Down Under. Kreider, already the author of two books on WA's rich football history, has spent the last three years putting together his latest tome...which promises to the most comprehensive yet produced on the game in Western Australia. He has succeeded in compiling every league table since the game began in the late 1890's — something never achieved before — and also has a comprehensive run-down on every State representative game, in-depth looks at amateurs, juniors and women's history, along with bulky chapters on Perth Glory and the stars and administrators of the game in WA. Sydney-based Simmons, who has been reporting on the world game in Australia since 1950 — and is still active in his early 80's — is poised to become the first writer to put together the entire history of football in Australia. "It's a State by State look at how the game started," he said. "No one has attempted it before, which is understandable for it's taken me 15 years of research." Simmons played at a high level in Sydney with State League team Prague, and was also a referee. He has reported on matches for the ABC, the Sydney Daily Mirror and, most recently, with Australian Associated Press. Simmons is one of the main driving forces behind Football Federation Australia's National Hall of Fame — and he complimented the efforts of WA's Football Hall of Fame Committee. "You guys are doing an invaluable service in the West," he said. The two historians have exchanged many emails and phone calls over the years, but came face to face for the first time when Simmons holidayed in Perth. "It was great to at last put a face to the voice and we had a terrific time talking about the importance of keeping alive the history of football," said Kreider.

THE FAME GAME

(The official newsletter of the Football Hall of Fame)

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INDUCTION NIGHT CHANGE

The next induction into the Football Hall of Fame WA has been put back until May, 2012. A ceremony had been planned for November 12, 2011 — but circumstances beyond the control of the Organising Committee have necessitated a change of date. With no other suitable dates — or venues — available, the Committee was left with no option but to postpone what will be the Fifth Hall of Fame Inductions Ceremony until Saturday, May 19, 2012.

However, the venue remains the same — the Novotel Langley Hotel in Perth, which has been home to most of the induction functions. "The change of date is unfortunate, but we are confident the wait will be worthwhile with a gala night of celebration in store," said Hall of Fame Committee Chairman Louis Prospero. A bumper night is in prospect. There will be new intakes into the Hall of Champions, the Hall of Merit for Players and the Hall of Recognition — and early indications are that it will be a star-studded line-up with many WA male and female footballing greats set to be honoured. A big attendance is in the offing, so make sure you underline the date in your diary. Readers of The Fame Game are welcome to attend the gathering, which will include pre-function refreshments, a lavish three-course dinner and all drinks, plus entertainment and a collectors-item programme. The cost will be $170 per person, although members of the Hall of Fame will received a $30 discount. Tickets can be obtained by contacting Hall of Fame Treasurer Bob Brown (copbrown@inet.net.au) or Committee Secretary Barbara Gibson (9526 0330). There have been four previous Hall of Fame induction ceremonies — in 1996, 2002, 2005 and 2008. So far, a total of 123 have been inducted.

ROY MEETS ANOTHER RED DEVIL

Former Manchester United winger Peter Barnes is in regular contact with another Old Trafford legend, Denis Law — and he will have an interesting tale to tell when he next meets The Lawman. Barnes was in Perth in late August as a guest speaker at the breakfast function leading up to the Donate Blood Cup Final at Macedonia Park. The former England star also attended the final between Sorrento and Perth, where he met up with one of WA's most famous former referees, Roy Stedman. The last time Stedman was face to face with a United star was when he was brandishing a red card in Law's face when the English club took on the WA State team in an international challenge at the WACA Ground in 1967. He sent Law packing in the 33rd minute for foul and abusive language, although the Red Devils still went on to win 7-0. "It would have hurt very much where he told me to put the whistle," recalled Stedman, who is now in his mid 80's and still very alert and fit. Barnes had a good laugh when he heard the story. "I was talking to Denis a few weeks ago, and I'm sure he'll have a good chuckle when I remind him of his visit to Perth all those years ago," said Barnes, who also played for Manchester City and Leeds United in a glittering career and is now based in Kuala Lumpur, where he is a Premier League pundit for a Malaysian TV network.

BEN BUCKLEY BACKS OUR PUSH

The Football Federation Australia chief executive Ben Buckley has pledged to support the WA Football Hall of Fame Commitee's bid to establish a Football Museum in Perth. Buckley was in Perth recently to meet representatives of the WA State Government, corporate leaders, Football West identities and the media.

He also met HoF Committee Chairman Louis Prospero, who made Buckley aware of the achievements — and goals — of the not-for-profit organisation, which was set up in 1996 by then State ruling body SAWA. "I told him our number one aim was to establish a Football Museum in Perth," said Prospero. "He thought it was a great idea and said he would take it up on our behalf when Football Federation make a submission to the State Government regarding ideas for a re-vamped stadium in WA." Prospero also presented Buckley with copies of programmes from recent WA Hall of Fame Induction Nights. "He seemed suitably impressed — and said he would like to be invited to attend our next induction ceremony," said Prospero. The HoF Committee first approached what was then the Labour State Government for support for a Football Museum in 2007. And in late 2009, the current Liberal Government was lobbied and Minister for Sport Terry Waldron said he would take up the matter with Cabinet. Football West is a strong advocate of establishing a Football Museum in WA and has also pledged its support.

"Lifers" Get The Nod

Football West officially embraced all Life Members of the code at a function held before the Donate Blood Cup Final in late August. Those who had previously been recognised as Life Members of the various bodies representing semi-pro, amateur, junior, women and referee level are now included on the Football West honour board. They were presented with certificates by Football West chairman Bob Kucera. "It's so important that we recognise the history of the game," said Kucera. "The Life Members have created a legacy that will continue to grow." It was Football West board member Rob MacKay who was the driving force behind what he described was a special project to salute many special people. "Not everyone could attend on the day, but we plan to make this an annual event when we will also recognise others who have made a big contribution to the sport," said MacKay. All the new Football West Life Members will also receive Life Passes for State League games. Many Hall of Fame inductees were included on the Life Members roll call. Former Soccer Federation of WA president Julius Re — a member of the inaugural Hall of Fame Committee — was among those who received a Life Members certificate. Other Hall of Fame Committee members to be honoured were Barbara Gibson, Peter Dimopolous and Roger Males. Former SFWA secretary Ted Gray, who now lives in NSW, could not attend — but, typical of the lyrical Ted, he apologised for his absence in the form of a poem, which was read out. Those who received Life Members certificates were: Alistair Mackay, Andy Gorton, Barbara Gibson, Barbara Hogan, Barrie Greenwood, Dave Collier, Eddie Retamal, Eddie Evans, Eric Thomas, Frank Kettell, Hans Lieber, Janette Spencer, Jeff Munn, Joe Claudio, John De Ceglie, John Venn, Judy Pettitt, Julius Re, Lou Ricci (represented by his daughter), Peter Dimopolous, Rita Richardson, Roger Males, Roy Stedman, Mike Hennessey, Percy Bailey, Roger Lefort, Ralph Preston, Steve Coppack and Syd Allen.

Football West also made a seperate presentation in appreciation of the efforts of former board members. Those who were honoured were: former chairman Kevin Campbell, Joe Claudio, Jodie Maguire, Jane Keane, Paul Kelly, Russell Goodrick and Steve Coppack.

Bob Kucera (left) with Roger Males

WHEN SANDRA MADE AUSSIE HISTORY

The Australian women's team's recent tilt at the World Cup in Germany brought back sweet memories for Sandra Brentnall, one of the WA pacesetters when it came to Aussie females making an impact at international level. Sandra was a lively teenager when she made Australian football history in 1979. At the age of 17, she scored the first official international goal for the Aussie women's team when they drew 2-2 with New Zealand in the first game of the inaugural Trans Tasman Cup. The other goal was also scored by a WA player, Sharon Mateljan. "It didn't make much of an impact at the time and it's a bit of a shock all these years later to realise the significance of that goal," said the remarkable Sandra, who is still traipsing round the pitch at the age of 50 in her role as player-coach of Leeming. "It never really bothered me about scoring at the time, for it was all about the Australian team. But when you look back it's special, although I can't really remember much about the goal." The Kiwis won the second match of the series 1-0 with the Aussies winning the third game 1-0. It tied the contest on equal goals and the trophy was shared. Sandra, however, made further history the following year in what was the deciding leg of the 1980 Trans Tasman Cup in New Zealand — she became the first Aussie woman to get a hat-trick at international level as the Matildas triumphed 3-2. "I can remember that occasion all right," said Sandra. "Scoring three times was special — and it helped us clinch the series." In all, she played 11 A internationals for Australia and scored eight goals. Sandra had also represented Australia in the World Women's Invitational Tournament in Taiwan in 1978. Unfortunately, because the other competing teams only entered regional teams and not national sides, it was not recognised as a full international event. Sandra is regarded as an icon of the women's game and she was one of the first females to be inducted into the WA Hall of Fame's Hall of Champions at the inaugural ceremony in 1996.

Prospero Books Space with Greats

Hall of Fame Chairman Louis Prospero recently had the opportunity to meet some of the greats of Football. World Cup winning captain Fabio Cannavaro and the man who is arguably the biggest name in the game — David Beckham. Cannavaro won the World Player of the Year award in 2006, the year in which he held the World Cup aloft after skippering Italy to a stunning success over France in the final in Germany. He ended his career with Dubai club Al -Ahli, and joined them in Perth in August when they were playing a series of pre-season training games against WA clubs and Perth Glory. Cannavaro, who is now a technical consultant with Al-Ahli, was a guest of Football West at the Donate Blood Cup final when he met up with Prospero. The HoF boss had also enjoyed a brief moment in the spotlight with Beckham last November when he bumped into the former Manchester United and England Captain at Sydney Airport. Prospero said: "Beckham was waiting for a flight to Los Angeles and very obligingly posed for a pic. He was very shy, so we didn't really have a conversation. "While it was great to meet Beckham and Cannavaro, I reckon John O'Connell is still one up on me, for I'd swap my pics to have the chance to meet my childhood star Pele who has been a true gentleman on and off the field." O'Connell met Pele in Singapore. Prospero, meanwhile, was socialising with more "greats" at Football West's Life Members function when he posed for a pic with former SFWA chairman Julius Re, ex-Football West board member Russell Goodrick and former women's body administrators Barbara Gibson and Peter Dimopoulos.

It's time to hear from you...

We value the comments of all Hall of Fame members — and all readers of The Fame Game. If you have any suggestions on possible subjects please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Committee. We are also on the look-out for photographs of historical significance — to reproduce in The Fame Game and store away for possible inclusion in the hoped-for Football Museum. We will copy any pics offerered and return the originals.

The Football Hall of Fame WA Committee is:

Chairman: Louis Prospero. Treasurer: Bob Brown. Secretary: Barbara Gibson. Other members are John O'Connell, Peter Dimopoulos, Richard Kreider and Mel Moffat, who is also the editor of The Fame Game. Mel's contact number is 9339 8619 or email at mel.moffat@ipgonline.cc

•If you have changed your address recently, please let us know so we can make sure you are kept in The Fame Game loop.